

Selected AMLU Abandoned Mine Remediation Projects (2007)

(Click on pictures below or scroll down for more information)



Partner(s): California State Lands Commission
Closure type: Backfills
Location: Calico Mining District and other areas in San Bernardino County
Closure date: October 2007



Partner(s): California State Parks, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Forest Service
Closure type: Backfills
Location: Nevada County
Closure date: September 2007



Partner(s): BLM
Closure type: Fences
Location: Red Mountain area, San Bernardino and Kern Counties
Closure date: September 2007



Partner(s): BLM
Closure type: Bat gates, PUF, backfills
Location: Quartz Mountain Complex, Madera County
Closure date: June 2007

Calico District Closures, San Bernardino County, October 2007

In October 2007, the AMLU and the California State Lands Commission backfilled 13 abandoned mine features in San Bernardino County that ranged from 20 to more than 100 feet deep. Six features were located near the Calico Ghost Town outside Barstow. The Calico District contains extensive abandoned mine workings, including numerous small shafts, collapses, and underground voids waiting to collapse. In 2006, on private property in the same general area, a man was killed after a 50-foot fall down a hidden vertical opening located inside an adit. A week later, a second man was paralyzed after falling into the same opening. One site highlights how some AMLU remediation projects evolve from the initial discovery of the hazard, to temporary fencing, to permanent closure by backfilling.



BEFORE



DURING



DISCOVERY (2002)



**FENCING (2003) AND
VIEW OF FENCE IN 2007
(note how shaft expanded
and undermined the fence)**



BACKFILLING (2007)

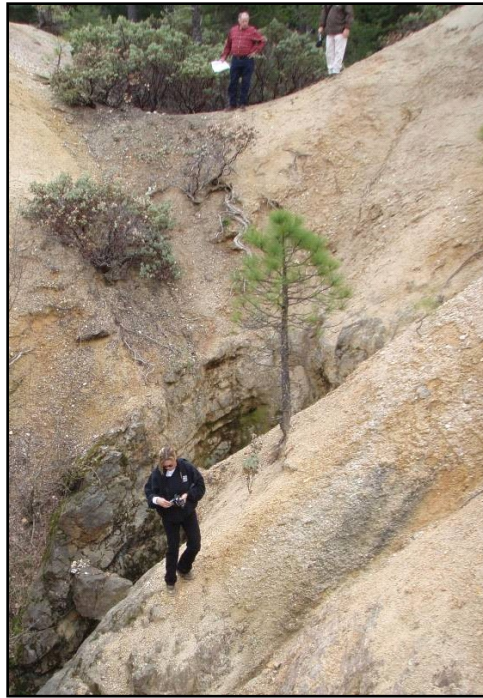
"We are pleased with our progress since beginning our partnership in 2002 with the Office of Mine Reclamation's Abandoned Mine Lands Unit to safeguard the public and wildlife from mine hazards located on state lands. Help from OMR has allowed us to double the amount of work we would have been able to achieve, and our efficiency has increased every year."

-- Greg Pelka, Senior Mineral Resources Engineer, CSLC

High Tensile Steel Mesh Closures, Nevada County, September 2007

In September 2007, the AMLU helped to close an extremely hazardous feeder shaft and inlet to a drain tunnel for the Le Du hydraulic mine near Malakoff Diggins in Nevada County.

The project had numerous challenges, including mixed ownership, the need to maintain drainage through the features, and the unusually shaped openings. The AMLU worked with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and U.S. Forest Service to install high tensile steel mesh over the feeder shaft, which is located on State Parks land, and a similar closure modified with a bat gate on the inlet, which is located on BLM land.



BEFORE



DURING



AFTER

Red Mountain Closures, San Bernardino and Kern Counties, September 2007

In September 2007, the AMLU partnered with the Ridgecrest Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to fence 42 hazardous features in the Red Mountain Area. Forty of the shafts were located in San Bernardino County and the other two shafts were in Kern County.

The Red Mountain and Randsburg areas contain hundreds of dangerous open mine shafts that pose a serious risk to the general public, including off highway vehicle (OHV) users who recreate on the public land in the area. On December 24, 2006, the Kern County Fire Department responded to a report that a 9-year-old fell down a mine shaft. Fortunately for the family, the boy only suffered minor injuries from the incident. Then in January 2007, another incident at an open mine shaft was reported to the BLM. In this incident, a rider drove onto a tailings pile and nearly fell into the shaft. In 2005, another rider was killed when he drove his motorcycle into a mine shaft located on private land and fell nearly 700 feet. After the December 24, 2006 and January 2007 incidents, the BLM fenced the two shafts. This project enabled the BLM to fence many more shafts in the area that pose a serious threat to the health and safety of the general public.



"I would like to thank you and your agency for cooperating with the BLM on this project. Without your agency's assistance in furnishing the labor costs for this project, these forty-two features may not have been fenced, thus leaving many potential hazards of the public land users in the area. Overall, this project went smoothly. The work completed under this contract shows what can be accomplished when the Federal government, the state government, the local community and the contractor all work together to accomplish a task." – Hector Villalobos, Field Manager, BLM Ridgecrest Field Office

Quartz Mountain Closures, Madera County, June 2007

In June 2007, the AMLU partnered with the Bakersfield Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to permanently close two abandoned mine shafts and three abandoned mine adits, as well as fill several pits in Madera County.

The need for this project was first identified when the BLM, Yosemite High School District, and the Coarsegold Elementary School District entered into a Recreation or Public Purpose lease agreement to develop federal lands at Quartz Mountain as a school site. State Parks Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division "Green Sticker" fees helped fund the bat surveys for this project.

"I write to thank you and your staff for the excellent work that was done for completion of abandoned mine closures at Quartz Mountain.... As a result public safety has been improved at Quartz Mountain, and the area is much better suited for development of a public school there. Your staff was extremely helpful, knowledgeable and timely in the entire execution of this project and displayed exemplary dedication and professionalism. The contractor you selected for the project did excellent work. I look forward to working with you and your excellent staff to close other mine features on BLM lands in the future." – Tim Smith, Manager, BLM Bakersfield Field Office



SHAFT (before and during PUF closure (before PUF covered with soil))



ADIT (before and after bat gate installed)

